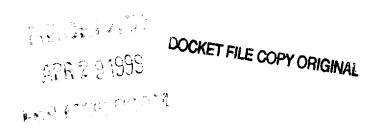
316 Teague Rd. Centralia, WA 98531 Ngeorge@localaccess.com

Office Of The Secretary 1919 M. Street Room 222 NW Washington, DC 20554



Attention: To Whom It May Concern

Dear Sir or Madam,

Subject: Formal Comments On MM Docket No. 99-25 (The creation of a Low Power Radio Service) < RM-9242, RM-9208>

While surfing your web site for information on starting my own station, I came across the Low Power Radio Station proposition. I am in extreme favor of this. It is such a great idea, as it would let the community at large have their spot on the air. The three classes of stations (Primary, Secondary, and Microstation) sound good, although I personally believe that the Primary Stations should be allowed a max of 5,000 watts (not less than 1001), the Secondary, 1000 (not less than 100), and the Microstations, 10, not less than 3.

I believe that the Primary & Secondary stations should be restricted to the FM band, as it is extremely hard to tune into the AM stations as it is. Microstations should be allowed on only one (possibly two) band(s) in the Extended AM range (e.g. 1700, as it would be easy to remember, and everyone would know to tune to for the local microstation). I believe that the FM band should be extended, but not to great lengths. I know of many radios (and just about all car radios) that can tune into 87.3, 87.5, and 87.9, and even sometimes 87.1 already (every radio I have ever noticed in the last 5 years can tune to 87.9). Possibly those could be used for the Primary and secondary stations, just as Educational/Nonprofit stations have 88.1-91.9 to themselves.

Another reason for the use of the FM band for the Primary & Secondary stations is the simple fact that FM provides a much better environment for broadcasting Music in stereo. I believe that most people who would have a Primary or Secondary station would like to broadcast some music, while microstation owners would probably want to use their stations as more of a talk/announcement medium for their community.

About nighttime crossover and long distance traveling (DX) of AM signals (If Microstations were used on a single band or so, and placed strategically). I would find that a simple solution would to have the station owners cut their power to a certain level, just as most large stations do, to prevent it.

I believe that Primary & Secondary stations which occupy the "low power" bands should be able to have all the rights as the large stations. They should be able to advertise, and receive profit through accepting advertisements. The only thing I feel would limit them from being like a larger stations would be their power output (if the maximum power allowed for a Primary station was 5,000 watts, they could even possibly compete with the larger corporate stations in the area!), and their band numbers from 87.1-87.9. Personally I would even give the Primary & Secondary stations standard 4 letter call letters. There are many people (I included) which would love to set up & run their own station, and, possibly make some money from it (on a very small scale). I believe that if the owners of Primary & Secondary stations were given the privilege, they would run their stations just like the larger stations (music, promos, ads etc.), with an added bonus that they would be privately owned & have much better "production values". If you were looking from a listener's point of view, you could get some pretty cool stuff such as 'two hour uninterrupted music' and complete focus on your area (Schools, Public Events, General Fun) You could get some pretty good quality stations out of this.

The Microstations, if being limited to only 3-10 watts or so on a Single Band, should only be non-profit. They wouldn't have to be, but the general content (at least from what you'd think) would be. Or possibly they could be flat-out public domain (as long as they stayed under the wattage, and were placed so they wouldn't interfere with one another).

Personally I feel that since the majority of users of the Low Power Bands would be individuals such as myself, strict technology requirements should not be enforced. Even if you were running a

No. of Copies rec'd 1949 List ABCDE maximum power Primary station, there should only be minimum technology requirements, minimum licensing costs, not near as strict (or expensive) as a fully licensed, multimillion-dollar station. The average radio hobbyist would probably be most comfortable building his own system, mounting his transmitting antenna atop a tall tree, and using his home computer to play music and station Programming/IDs/Ads/Live Streams To The Internet/etc. automatically. Why require someone to have high end technology when this would technically make radio a more "public" medium. That would also be another reason to separate the bands for the low powered stations.

All that I am presenting here is modifications on a great way to get the public on the "normal" radio dial. Any station licensed between the band of 87.1 and 87.9 should be allowed to do whatever he wished, within reason, power limits (and interference limits), and good taste, of course. Anybody licensed on the Microstation band should be allowed even more freedom providing it falls within good taste, and their small power limitation (with no advertising if Microstations were only for non-profit use).

Generally speaking, for all the years of radio, no "individual" (or small group) has had a good chance at accessing the "normal" radio dial, as a standard station. Most of the time, only being limited to weird frequencies that only a few specialized radios can pick up. With this idea, anyone who has the know how, and some form of equipment can set up a successful station, on par with the other corporate stations in their area.

In closing, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this. I am glad that we are given the opportunity to voice our opinions such as this one. Feel free to reply to me. I believe that the entire idea of low power stations that can be built and accessed by anyone on the regular radio dial, be able to be used for almost any purpose, and be powerful enough to cover at least their town, but possibly miles and miles around them as well is the kind of idea that should have been thought up a long time ago!

Sincerely,

(Nat George)